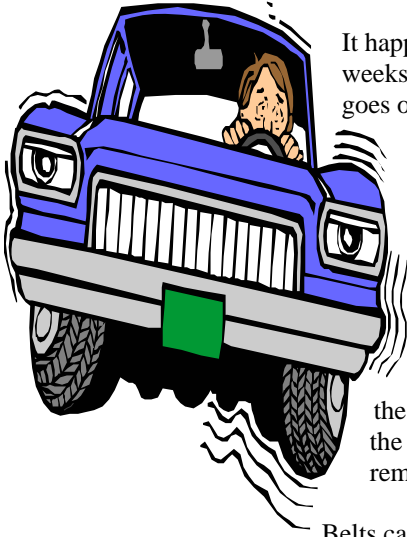




PMCS that POV before you get

On The Road Again



It happens every year. Shortly after Memorial Day, give or take a couple of weeks, drivers start to lose their cool. The windows go up, the air conditioner goes on, and the light breezes of spring turn into the heat blast of summer.

For drivers, a scoop of chocolate-chip ice cream usually improves their attitude in a hurry. Your car, on the other hand, would probably enjoy a little more attention to potential maintenance problems.

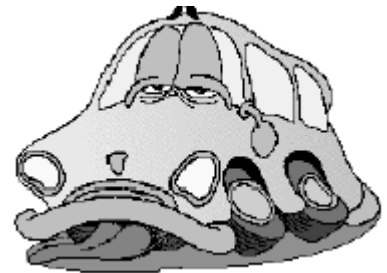
Radiator Review: One of the main hazards of summer driving is overheating. It's easy to recognize when a breakdown may be brewing. Check the radiator hoses regularly for bulges, small cuts, and cracks, especially after the rubber-hardening winter. In hot weather, pressure from the radiator can quickly turn a crack into a hole. Also be sure that you have got the right mixture of coolant and water in the radiator. Remember to never remove the radiator cap when the engine is hot.

Belts can also take a beating over the winter. Loose belts can slip. Belts that are too tight can wear down quickly and snap.

Keep a clear view. As long as you're under the hood, make sure the windshield wiper solvent reservoir is full. Dust and insects can block your vision on even the sunniest summer days. Also, check that your wiper blades don't streak. They can deteriorate over the winter. Going from extreme heat to heavy summer rains also wears them down quickly. *A bottle of window washer and a roll of paper towels can save the day. When you make a stop for gas, rest area stop or restaurant stop, take a minute to go over the windshield and if needed, the headlights.*

Tire Troubles. Extreme heat takes a toll on your tires too. Under-inflated tires will flex more in hot weather and build up heat, increasing the chance of a blowout. For an accurate tire pressure reading, check your tires after they have been cool for several hours. You should also take the time to check the tire walls and the tread surface as often as possible. Have a mechanic check for objects that may be stuck inside the tread and for proper wear and rotation.

Check the Spare tire (if you have one of those small spare tires remember they are to get you to the nearest gas station and not to drive on for the rest of the trip. If you can, replacing the small tire with a full-size spare just like your regular tire is best.)



Other Pre- and Post-Trip Vehicle Inspections: Check your vehicle's: Brake lights and turn signals, Steering mechanism, brakes, transmission, battery, horn, fluids levels, rearview and side view mirrors and safety belts.

Remember Murphy's Law:

"Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong"!

A thorough PMCS increases your chances of a problem-free ride.

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